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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO. (Air) [REDACTED]

TOPIC Wittstock Airfield

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT Early March and 11 March 1950

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 5 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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- The following names of Soviet officers assigned to the Wittstock (N 54/U 11) airfield headquarters were learned in early March 1950:

Lt Col Mertsevich

Maj Deshenkov (he expected to be transferred to the Soviet Union but said that he would go to Warden (N 53/Z 53) first)

Capt Druegin

Sen Lt Maslenikov

Lt Svirnov

Lt Vesilov

Lt Shisterkov

- About 250 German workers were constructing an E-W runway on the northern half of the landing field. The Wittstock branch office of the Wern (N 54/U 35) Bauunion Nord firm had charge of the construction work. The number of workers was to be increased to 800. The Soviets set 1 October 1950 as the target date for the completion of the runway.
- Most of the work was being done in the eastern section of the field. Half of the marsh (Postluch, bordering on the field to the east) was cleared and being graded. Soviet officers said that the runway was to be 2,500 meters long. The runway construction site was staked off. A group of workers dug out the sod on both sides of the field to a width of about 500 meters and piled it up. Another group excavated this area to a depth of about 60 cm.

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4. All German employees and workers had to suddenly leave the airfield at 1 p.m. on 11 March 1950 and were not allowed to return before 8 a.m. on 13 March 1950. No reason for this measure was given. It was possibly connected with the arrival of new radar sets recently often mentioned by the Soviet officers. Only Soviet Air Force troops were stationed at the field. There were two radio stations.

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a. According to previous observations the Hq III Ftr Corps and presumably the headquarters of an ATD are stationed in Wittstock. The reported officers are not known to be assigned to either headquarters. No air unit is stationed at the airfield.

b. The construction of a concrete E-W runway was confirmed by several sources but the target date (1 October 1950) is reported for the first time. The information that the runway is to be 2,500 meters long is considered credible.

c. The presence of radar sets mentioned in para 4 was confirmed by other sources. It is assumed that these sets, used as fighter control sets, are operated by the corps headquarters.

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